

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Presently Amended) A method for detecting ~~DESC1 gene expression in a sample from the presence of at least one of squamous cell carcinoma and prostate cancer in a subject~~ comprising ~~the following steps~~:  
  
providing a tissue sample from the subject; and  
  
assaying for expression of ~~the~~ DESC1 gene in the sample, using at least one nucleic acid;  
  
wherein reduced DESC1 expression is indicative of the presence of at least one of squamous cell carcinoma and prostate cancer.
- 2-22. (Canceled)
23. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the tissue sample is obtained from the head, neck, or prostate of the subject.
24. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein the tissue sample is obtained from the head or neck of the subject.
25. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein the tissue sample is obtained from the prostate of the subject.
26. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein the expression of DESC1 in the sample is detected by testing for the presence of at least one of SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 3.
27. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein the expression of DESC1 in the sample is detected by testing for the presence of at least one of nucleotides 626-1321 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and nucleotides 626-1321 of SEQ ID NO: 3.
28. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein the at least one nucleic acid is chosen from SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, and SEQ ID NO: 10.